



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/461,432

Filed: December 16, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

Group: 3749

Examiner: S. Gravini

Allowed: December 7, 2000

Batch No.: W11

Attn: Sherry Brinkley  
Office of Petitions

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**PETITION TO WITHDRAW FROM ISSUE**  
**BASED ON 37 CFR §1.313(c)(2)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box 313(b)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

May 8, 2001

Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner, under 37 CFR §1.313(a) and pursuant to 37 CFR §1.313(c)(2), to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the Issue Fee on March 7, 2001. This petition is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination and necessary Submission, in order to have the Examiner consider the Submission filed concurrently herewith, and to consider the Further Amendment under 37 CFR §1.312, filed March 7, 2001, in the above-identified application (this Further Amendment also being a Submission in connection with the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination). In the concurrently filed Submission, the independent claims, of

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the allowed claims of the above-identified application, as amended in the Further Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.312, filed March 7, 2001, are amended to recite consistently throughout the claims a cassette transferring path; to recite in claim 1 the transfer of substrates, to be processed, from a cassette at the location of the atmospheric loader to the lock chamber; and to consistently recite "samples" in claim 3.

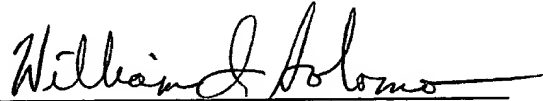
Also submitted with this Petition is the necessary fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i). See 37 CFR §1.313(a).

Granting of this Petition, and withdrawal of the above-identified application from issue, in due course, for consideration of the aforementioned Request for Continued Examination and of the aforementioned concurrently filed Submission and previously filed Further Amendment under 37 CFR §1.312, particularly in light of the document referred to in the Further Amendment, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C14) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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